**UNITY FOR SUSTAINABILITY**

**INTERVIEW**

**Dr. Madhav Karki**
Assistant Secretary, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's CC & ENV.

What role do you play as an advisor to the prime minister on climate change and environment? My main role is to advise the prime minister on the following aspects:

Effective coordination among agencies working on Environment Protection and Climate Change. Assess the effectiveness of the current institutional arrangements to tackle the country’s growing environment and climate change problems and challenges. Help the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoFE) to implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) at all levels of government and help improve the health ecosystem to increase the sustained production of ecosystem goods, services and the capacity of vulnerable communities.

**GREEN PARTNER’S SAY**

**Anil Sharma**
Executive Director, Nepal Bankers’ Association

Nepal Bankers’ Association (NBA) was established to foster fair and healthy competition among the banks. It aims to maintain uniformity in the policy and procedures of banking transactions and develop and adopt innovative and cutting-edge technology. NBA is working towards improving the effectiveness and efficiency of banks, as well as to identify issues and put solutions in place related to the banking industry. NBA is actively engaged in many areas including encouraging and advocating the banking industry to embrace a policy of greater social responsibility, where it has encouraged member banks to promote green and sustainable financing, and has also been engaged in several sustainable banking campaigns. The banking industry in Nepal has seen significant growth. The total deposit is larger than the GDP and the loan is close to the size of GDP. There are almost 45m deposit accounts in almost 6,400 branches of different banks across the country. We understand the responsibility and impact that can be made by the banking sector. By realizing the fact that various stakeholders are working sensibly towards climate change and its impact, the banking industry in Nepal also initiates dialogue on climate change and also raises awareness about it. In this regard, NBA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Annapurna Media Network’s Unity for Sustainability (UFS) campaign. The purpose of the MoU is to set the terms and conditions under which AMN will run the UFS campaign for climate change dialogue. Highlighting the urgency of adaptation and mitigation issues, it also links private, public and cooperatives sectors and has also aimed to explore the local knowledge and technology on the matter. We also try to promote alternative renewable energy and electric vehicles. Majority of the Nepal banks have taken climate change issues seriously and have taken efforts to reduce potential risks and raise its awareness. The initiative taken by the banks can be considered as a small step towards combating climate change but will have a significant impact on reducing its negative effect. We could also spread messages to the community about how ethically and responsibly the industry is operating that could add value in building our social image. It is obvious that sooner or later, we all need to move towards sustainable and green finance, and this is only possible if we are honest, open and transparent about the challenges, letting everyone know about the achievements and initiatives. Collective action is also necessary from all sectors to tackle climate change, thus the banking sector is ready to work together with relevant stakeholders. We understand the significance of the climate change issue and sustainable finance.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM MANAGER**

**Chiranjibi Neupane**
UFS, Program Manager

Working closely with climate related stakeholders and our green partners, we are very delighted to share the August edition with you. This month, the Unity for Sustainability team attended the program organized by Alternative Energy Production Center (APEC), our green partner. The program was themed on capacity building and knowledge sharing on climate and carbon which helped to know about history, current status and future possibilities of climate trade. We request everyone to learn communicating and teaching climate actions. The UFS continued partnering with several institutions and agencies to incorporate various ideas and knowledge to fight against climate change with our joint efforts.

We met with the head of the climate change management division at the MoFE to share about our campaign and also with the climate change and environment advisor to the prime minister. We announced five green youth champions and they will be involved voluntarily for climate awareness. The ANMN organized an editorial meeting for the upcoming plan on climate change and its cross-cutting issues with additional priorities. I am proud that our green campaign is working at top level for environmental protection. I believe that together we can bring more issues and challenges in front of concerned authorities regarding climate change. Through the media we could provide the information within a short period of time to the maximum population hence we invite all the ideas and suggestions to our campaign for maximizing the awareness.